

Remarks by Ambassador William H. Moser  
to be delivered at Independence Day Reception  
U.S. Embassy Chisinau  
Wednesday, July 3, 2013

Good evening, honored guests. Thank you for joining us tonight to celebrate America's Independence Day. This day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It marks the day we began our great journey as a nation.

Last year, as many of you will remember, we celebrated my home state of North Carolina. This year, we are highlighting Louisiana, the home state of my wife, Marie.

If you look around you tonight, you will see photographs of the great state of Louisiana.

It is a state famous for its wild and vast bayous, warm hospitality, and of course, the city of New Orleans. The great American art form, jazz music, emerged in New Orleans thanks to the city's rich ethnic heritage, and the freedom of personal expression that its residents have enjoyed for hundreds of years. To mark this special evening, we chose a band that specializes in jazz.

In the United States, the Fourth of July is synonymous with freedom. 237 years ago, the founders of the American republic signed the Declaration of Independence, and launched a great experiment built on the self-evident truths that all people are created equal, and entitled to fundamental freedoms.

These freedoms include, but are not limited to: the freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of religion; the freedom to gather and protest; and the freedom to organize politically.

Protecting and maintaining our freedoms is a heavy responsibility all Americans share.

To defend our freedoms it is crucial that we speak out when rights are violated, whether we ourselves are the victims, or the victims are strangers with different viewpoints from our own.

These freedoms protect the richness of our society and the diversity of our culture, the sources of our creativity and innovation. There are some who believe that to have a strong nation, one must crackdown on personal freedoms and stifle diversity. That has not been my nation's experience. We have found strength in freedom and power in diversity. We cannot progress as individuals or as a nation without being given space to think freely, to express our ideas and opinions, and to speak truth to power without fear of retribution.

America's dedication to freedom is one of the reasons that the United States was so quick to recognize the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1992.

We believed then, as we do now, that all Moldovans deserve to live in a free country where human rights and individual liberties are respected and protected by the government, regardless of which god you worship, the language you speak, or what your skin color, ethnic ancestry, or sexual orientation is.

For the last 21 years, our two countries have worked hard to build a strong and constructive partnership. From the outset, the United States has worked to support Moldova's democratic and economic development, its sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

To our Moldovan friends: I know Moldova has recently experienced political and economic turmoil, but these experiences can help you refine and strengthen your democracy as you continue on the path to becoming a more free, more prosperous, and independent European nation.

I wish the people of Moldova courage, strength, and patience. And I pray that you will have tolerance and respect for those who hold different opinions. The people of the United States remain your steadfast friend and partner and we look forward with Moldova toward a bright future ahead.

I wish you all a very happy Independence Day. And Happy Birthday to the United States of America!